

REMARKS

This Amendment, filed in reply to the Office Action dated January 26, 2006, is believed to be fully responsive to each point of rejection raised therein. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

As an initial matter, Applicant hereinabove amends the specification to conform the disclosure with Figs. 1A and 2 and to obviate the Examiner's objections.

Applicant hereinabove amends independent claim 1 to describe the invention more particularly. Applicant further traverses the prior art rejection over Lonka as follows.

Lonka et al. does not disclose newly added features of "said plurality of operation switches not being disposed in said grip" nor "said vertical body formed integrally". By these features, the image capturing apparatus in the present invention can be grasped comfortably. Applicant submits that the present invention is distinguishable from Lonka.

In addition, as Lonka does not teach or suggest improving operability or user-friendliness for both right-handed user and left-handed user, Applicant submits that Lonka should be a non-analogous art when the problem comes to unobviousness.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Appln. No.: 09/702,817

Attorney Docket No.: Q61579

Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any
overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

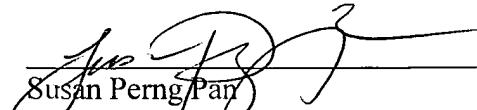
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